

<b>Present:</b>  Kirstin Richardson Peter Arthurs Jane Arthurs Viv Davies Dave Hutchinson Joe Thompson Maureen Skevington Phil Toulson Howard Becke Grahame Tobin Mervyn Butler Phil Payne Lesley Younger Sue Balmer	<b>Apologies:</b>  Cllr Ian Forster Cllr Joan Atkinson Delia McNally Roy Wilburn Ron Forbister David Brown Roz Hughes Howard Lawrence
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## Welcome from the Chair:

- Kirstin welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- More good news relating to birdlife in the area was noted. This month, the buzzards nesting in Low House Copse have been hunting with their young.
- Members present were reminded of the agreed protocol for Zoom meetings.

## Matters arising from meeting on 14 June 2021:

Minutes of last meeting agreed.

Matters arising:

- All actions have been completed, including relevant maps sourced from STC by Joe Thompson.
- The Forum has responded to the Examiner's queries in full. These responses to Rosemary Kidd's 34 queries and responses can be viewed on the South Tyneside Council website at: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/72037/Examination-of-the-East-Boldon-Neighbourhood-Plan> under the section Neighbourhood Plan Examination correspondence. Please see: 'EBNF response to Examiner's questions of 7<sup>th</sup> June'.
- EBNF supported many of the Examiner's amendments and was pleased by praise for the draft submission plan from the independent Examiner.

### **Examiner's draft report on the Neighbourhood Plan:**

We had hoped to have the Examiner's report available for the meeting, however, it has not yet been received. Merv Butler explained how the Forum, with advice from the Consultant, Jo-Anne Garrick, had formulated responses to the Examiner's queries in the draft report.

The Forum submission put forward arguments to:

- use the new wildlife corridor mapping
- safeguard essential local services
- retain masterplans for new developments of more than 10 dwellings
- retain the policy on infrastructure.
- retain the policies on cycle storage, parking and residential parking.

Throughout Community consultations, parking has been raised as an issue of great importance in the Forum area. The Forum Executive submitted a comprehensive document on Parking to explain:

- the problems which are caused in the village.
- the need to retain detailed guidance in the plan, giving examples of other plans which have similar policies.

This document can be viewed as part of the STC website from the same link as above, under the heading: 'Annex 2 – Response to Examiner's Q30 re Parking Standards'.

### ***Actions:***

- *ongoing discussion with Council Officers to finalise changes to the plan recommended by the Examiner.*
- *The Secretary to email Council Officers to determine road map to referendum.*

### **Neighbourhood Plan referendum**

South Tyneside Council manages the referendum. The legal process is as follows:

- Council publishes information statement
- Council publishes notice of referendum
- polling takes place (only residents within the plan area are eligible to vote)
- residents will receive a polling card or postal vote prepared by STC, requiring a simple "yes" or "no" response to a simple question about their support or otherwise for the plan
- results declared
- should more than half of those voting vote in favour of the neighbourhood plan, the plan comes into force as part of the statutory development plan for the Forum area.

It was noted that the Forum has endeavoured to work cooperatively with politicians, residents, other stakeholders and members of community groups e.g., Keep Boldon Green and Friends of the Parks. The meeting discussed how best to publicise the referendum. The Council has responsibility for holding and publicising the referendum, but we need to consider how much we do. The message is simple but it will still be necessary to continue to explain the process to voters. We must also remember that this is the first time South

Tyneside Council has dealt with a Neighbourhood Plan.

**Action:**

- *Comms group to discuss ways of communicating with residents about voting process, within legal restraints.*

**Moor Lane cycling and walking scheme**

To date, there have been two consultations about the scheme and two petitions against it. Robert Hope, a resident of Cleadon, set up a petition in support of the scheme. Within 7 days, this petition had gathered 665 signatures and will be presented to the Council during this week.

The Council published an announcement today (19 July) that the scheme would be removed on 21 July in order to comply with legislative requirements. The justification for this is explained on the Council website here:

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/72567/Walking-and-Cycling-Improvements-Moor-Lane-Cleadon-East-Boldon->

The meeting discussed the benefits of the scheme, not least of which would be to contribute to the escalation of Boldon Flats to a Local Wildlife Site.

The Forum Executive is anxious to know the results of responses and analyses and to find out whether there is a cut-off point for the funding (from Central Government) for the scheme. If the scheme is approved, there will be formal traffic regulation consultations which take time to implement.

Joe Thompson proposed the following motion:

“Regarding Moor Lane cycling and walking route, this meeting requests that its Secretary write to South Tyneside Council and asks for the following information:

1. When will the result of the Council's consultation be made available to the public?
2. If the scheme is to proceed, what is the proposed programme?
3. What is the cut off point for funding and is there a danger that this may be missed because of lack of progress?”

The motion was agreed by all members present. It was suggested that our Councillors and the Leader of the Council should be copied into the correspondence.

**Action:**

- *The Secretary write to Paul Fleming to request answers to the questions above, copying Councillors and the Leader of the Council into the correspondence.*

## United Reformed Church and Hall

The Forum has learned that the United Reformed Church and Hall on Front Street will close because of lack of funds to maintain the buildings. In particular, the roof of the Hall needs urgent attention. The centre is an important feature of the village and is within the Conservation Area. There are few venues with similar space and facilities for meetings and events in the village.

Discussion surrounded the possibility of registering the buildings as an 'Asset of Community Value'. The Forum can do this by submitting a request to the Council. If approved, this would allow a period of 6 months in which the buildings cannot be sold and options for future use can be explored.

### **Action:**

- *The Secretary to write to the URC Secretary to make him aware of the process of registration*
- *Executive to research information about buildings and usage and to find out about the process of registering a Community Asset*
- *Roy Wilburn to update the audit of community meeting places in the village*
- *Explore possibility of getting a maintenance assessment*

## Cultural Spring Funding bid

Delia McNally has submitted an expression of interest form to Cultural Spring in the hope of getting funding to support a community arts project entitled "Beautiful Boldon Birds". She has asked for between £400 and £500 to cover the project. More information about Cultural Spring can be found at: [http://theculturalspring.org.uk/your-art/?fbclid=IwAR37ngMoljcBk5vfNi-1ojiup\\_OtNX09JsVVVFu9sSkYivHFQ10EgI7qw](http://theculturalspring.org.uk/your-art/?fbclid=IwAR37ngMoljcBk5vfNi-1ojiup_OtNX09JsVVVFu9sSkYivHFQ10EgI7qw)

### **Treasurer's report:**

We have agreement from Locality for the small overspend on Consultant's fees. The number of leaflets needed for the referendum is still to be decided. The current position with grant spend is as follows:

Revised grant spend:	Original	Amendment	Revised	
Consultant	840.00	600.00	1,440.00	
Website development	187.00		187.00	
Printing costs	640.00	-160.00	480.00	3 instead of 4 leaflets
Room hire	250.00	-100.00	150.00	Reduce contribution to school
Publicity	893.00	-300.00	593.00	Balance, spend what's available
Other (inc postage)	100.00	-40.00	60.00	Was an estimate anyway.
Total	2,910.00	0.00	2,910.00	

**AoB**

- Gillian Young raised issue of parking at western end of North Road, with blocking of footpath and damage to planting. Councillors have not yet replied to concerns.
- David Brown reported that St George's Terrace was being used as a "rat run". Lesley Younger reported that parking on St Bede's and the excessive speed of traffic was a problem.
- It was noted that the post box on Front Street had not yet been relocated. (Secretary agreed to email Royal Mail).
- Joe Thompson asked the Secretary to extend wishes for a speedy recovery to Delia who is suffering from Covid.

**Meeting closed 8.40 pm****Date of next meeting: 16 August 2021 (by Zoom)**